

average person, including duties such as rescuing individuals from a multitude of life-threatening incidents and assisting families during times of great personal sorrow;

Law enforcement officers engage in a variety of tasks, from visiting with home-bound elderly citizens, mediating domestic disputes, and providing counsel to youngsters on our streets, to retrieving lost pets and bringing a spirit of friendship and compassion to an environment often lacking in these essential qualities;

Law enforcement officers daily encounter individuals within our society who reject all moral values and ethical codes of conduct in pursuit of criminal activities;

Law enforcement officers risk their health, lives, and future happiness with their families in order to safeguard communities from criminal predation;

In the course of their duties, law enforcement officers may find themselves not only in harm's way, but also victims of violent crime; and

The contributions made by Dep. Stanley B. Hoisington, Tpr. Cal Jones, Tpr. Douglas Pelott, Marshall Richard Teske, Tpr. Roger Adams, Ptlm. Bobby Williams, Ptlm. Steven Reuther, Tpr. Byron Erikson, law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty, should be honored, their dedication and sacrifice recognized, and their unselfish service to the Nation remembered.

HONORING POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

HON. JAY W. JOHNSON

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my pride and respect for our brave law enforcement officials during National Police Week. I regret, however, that this body has not been afforded the chance to truly honor fallen police officers, as they would under my legislation, H. Con. Res 47. Unfortunately, my bill was not included on yesterday's suspension calendar of votes.

The bill that Congress voted on and passed yesterday remembers the sacrifices of police officers. I do not intend to demean its purpose. It is a worthy bill with honest sentiment. However, by denying the members in this chamber the ability to also vote on H. Con. Res 47, the leadership has failed to do all they can to honor police officers killed in the line of duty.

Under my bill, whenever a police officer is killed in the line of duty, a special U.S. Flag flown over the Capitol Building would be lowered to half-staff and then given to the family of the officer after it is flown. Currently, a flag is flown at half-staff only once a year to honor Police Officers Memorial Day. More than just words, this measure would entrust our nation's most powerful symbol, our flag, to remind Americans on a daily basis of the bravery and sacrifices of this nation's law enforcement officers.

This flag flown at half-staff over the Capitol would send a signal to Congress, to all of Washington and the entire nation that our brave law enforcement officers deserve our highest respect. The cold reality is that every 57 hours, an officer will die in the line of duty

in this country. When we lose a police officer in the line of duty, we have lost a hero.

My bill has been endorsed by the National Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Chiefs of Police, and the International Union of Police Associations.

We must do all we can to protect and honor the police officers who risk their lives for the safety of our communities. When decision-makers in Washington see this constant reminder of the bravery of law enforcement officers, it will strengthen their support for the men and women who fight crime across America. I would hope that this Congress will seize the occasion of Police Memorial Day to enact H. Con. Res 47, important legislation to honor fallen officers with a U.S. Flag at the U.S. Capitol dedicated to their service.

A BRAVE TALE

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to honor an extraordinary American and constituent of mine from the Third District of Utah.

On March 12, 1998, Sgt. First Class Bryan Smethurst, a recruiter for the Army National Guard in Utah, was on his daily morning commute through Provo Canyon. Little did he know at the time that he would perform an uncommon act of bravery that Thursday morning that would save the life of a woman, her pregnant daughter and her three year old granddaughter.

The morning was pretty typical for that time of year and Bryan Smethurst was driving the icy and wet Provo Canyon road to work. But through the hazy windshield that morning he spotted something a little different—fresh skid marks on the asphalt were up ahead and then veered toward the river to an overturned car. Realizing that the accident must have just occurred—it would have been cleaned up by then if it had happened earlier—he stopped to investigate. The sight to behold left him no time to assess the danger to himself: He dove into the freezing Provo River to rescue the occupants of the overturned car.

In moments, Bryan was struggling out of the river and pulling to safety the driver of the car, a young and pregnant woman who was frantically trying to help her mother and daughter still trapped. Rushing back into the river and moving against the current, Bryan was able to open one of the car doors and pull the grandmother to safety. The third passenger of the overturned car was a child, who although quite secure in a car seat, was trapped upside-down with the icy river flowing just below her eyebrows. Battling an impending numbness in his hands from the freezing water and weather, Bryan released the child from the car seat and brought her safely to shore as well.

All three occupants of the car had to be treated at a local hospital for hypothermia, minor cuts and bruises. They were able to return to their homes later in the day.

Three lives were saved on the morning of March 12 by Sgt. First Class Bryan Smethurst, a courageous individual who acted without regard for his own life, but rather in the name of unselfish and brotherly love.

It is precisely for such acts of bravery and kindness that we must strive to convey the appropriate recognition, honor and gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR G.L. JOHNSON

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pastor G.L. Johnson, Senior Pastor of the Peoples Church of Fresno, California. Pastor Johnson is celebrating 35 years of exceptional religious service at the Peoples Church of Fresno.

G.L. Johnson was born in Houston, Texas on February 24, 1928. In 1950, G.L. Johnson married Jacqueline (Jackie) Cockerell, and in 1953 they had their only daughter Cindy. Pastor Johnson attended Navarro Junior College of Corsicana, Texas; Southwestern Assembly of God College of Waxahachie, Texas; and Mennonite Biblical Seminary of Fresno, California. He was ordained in Fort Worth, Texas in 1951.

In the Ministry, Pastor Johnson served as Youth Minister throughout the United States from 1946–1952. He served as a pastor in Corsicana, Texas from 1951–1953 and served as a Statewide Evangelist from 1953–1957. G.L. Johnson moved on to serve as a Pastor in Owensboro, Kentucky from 1957–1958 and then in Tallahassee, Florida from 1958–1961. He was the Associate Director of a Latin American Orphanage from 1961–1963. G.L. Johnson currently serves as Senior Pastor at the Peoples Church of Fresno where he has been serving since 1963.

Some of the many awards and recognition that Pastor Johnson has received include the Distinguished Service Award from the City of Fresno, acting as Mayor of Fresno for the Day in 1973 and 1987, and being recognized as a Distinguished Minister by the California Theological Seminary Hall. He received the P.C. Nelson Distinguished Alumnus Award from Southwestern College and the Calab Encouragement award. He is the author of "How to Conduct a Stewardship Campaign in the Local Church" and the "Loneliness Booklet."

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Pastor G.L. Johnson for 35 years of service to the Peoples Church in Fresno, California. I applaud his commitment and dedication to Christianity, and his effort to strengthen religion in the community is commendable. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Pastor G.L. Johnson many more years of success.

TEEN SMOKING

HON. NEWT GRINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Mr. GRINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage my colleagues to read the following column, "Blowing Smoke on Smoking," from the April 27, 1998 edition of the Marietta Daily Journal.

Like most Americans, I was sickened to discover internal tobacco industry documents